

C.E. McCormick and J.D. Patton Students Attend “Construction Career Days 2003”

“...students were able to see and experience an aspect of construction that we just cannot teach.”

David Lawson
Carpentry Instructor
C.E. McCormick ATC

– Rachel Burton, a welding student at C.E. McCormick is pictured with Doug McLaughlin, Ohio Department of Transportation, operating a John Deer backhoe. “I’m looking small, but living large. I had a great time and would have liked to have been there all day.”

How many high school students get to actually operate heavy equipment? Well, on September 24-25, over 2,000 students participated in the 2nd Annual Construction Career Days at the Hamilton Co. Fairgrounds. The event included hands-on



activities, heavy construction equipment, and booth exhibits.

“I first learned about this activity from my advisory committee members,” says David Lawson, carpentry instructor at C.E. McCormick ATC. “Tonya Beesley of Baker Construction and Brooks Parker of Messer Construction are heavily involved in the coordination of this event. This type of activity is vital to the construction industry and my students were able to see and experience an aspect of construction that we just cannot teach.”

The construction industry is facing a severe shortage of workers. Beesley believes this type of event will expose high school students

At right: Tyler Robertson, carpentry student at McCormick, operates a 2,000 lb. Maxim crane under the watchful eye of Crane Operator John Mount.



J.D.Patton Carpentry Student Phil Frommeyer, left, tries his hand at stick welding with the help of Mike Thompson of Ironworkers Local 44.

to rewarding and diverse careers in the industry while at the same time portraying a friendlier and more professional industry that cares about them and their future.

The Construction Career Days event is based on strong partnerships between industry, government and education at the national, state and local levels. The individuals, corporations, organizations, and schools volunteer and participate with equipment, personnel, supplies, and give away items. However, the partnerships reach beyond this event - they work toward enhancing career technology education, developing better curriculum and increasing the diversity of the construction industry's workforce.

“By companies and apprenticeship programs participating in this, it gives students more options in helping to choose a career,” said Charles “Augie” Germann, welding instructor at C.E. McCormick. “I know it put a spark in my students that were not sure what path they would take. It also put some enthusiasm in the staff as well as the students.”



Amber Heath, electrical technology student at Patton, lays brick with directions from John Eddings, Bricklayers apprenticeship coordinator.

“This was such a good event for our students because many are interested in a co-op job,” says Lawson. “Here, these students can make contact with potential employers.”

“Kentucky should be



Above: Nic Giancola, carpentry student at McCormick, operates a mini excavator with help from Darrin Pugh, excavator operator with Messer Construction.



looking at putting together a similar type of event,” says C.E. McCormick Principal Joe Amann. “We just can’t teach this in the classroom.”

At left: Duane Shepherd, a carpentry student at J.D. Patton, operates the John Deere Bobcat. “I never thought we would do something this fun at school. It’s something great and new.”



Above: J.D. Patton English Instructor Pat Sullivan and Math Instructor Martha Ferguson try their hand at plastering.



Josh Caldwell – carpentry student at C. E. McCormick with Stan Sutton of Messer Construction in a GLJ Man Lift. “Mr. Lawson is a great instructor and it was his idea to bring us to the career days event. This has opened up my world to more construction opportunities.”



Good News Flash # 43
October 9, 2003



(Click on logo to go to Technically Speaking page)

Andrew Bachelier, J.D. Patton carpentry student, operates a backhoe. “This was a fun day. It gave me more of an outlook on the real world.”